

RESTRICTED

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949 - 1950

DATE DIST. 17 May 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SAYS MILITARY COMMANDS SET UP IN EAST GERMANY

Although the motive behind the dissolution of the Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen concentration camps may be regarded with skepticism, the fact remains that 15,000 people have regained their freedom. However, a number of questions remain unanswered. The main one is: What will become of the approximately 14,000 prisoners now handed over [by the Russians] to the East German authorities? And when will the German people receive an explanation of the fate of the tens of thousands of other prisoners about whom nothing is known?

- 1 -

REST

[illegible]

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

STAT

In a press conference on 20 January in the Eastern Sector of Berlin, Minister of Propaganda Gerhard Eisler announced that there no longer are any concentration camps in Soviet Zone Germany. He forgot to state that Bautzen is to be used for. In accordance with General Chuykov's proclamation, Bautzen, too, was handed over to the East German Ministry of the Interior but there are good reasons for believing that it will continue to function as a concentration camp. Presumably it is there that the 13,945 prisoners handed over to the East German government will be incarcerated.

Just as little was said about the future of the various small concentration camps and the numerous overfilled prisons, which, for the most part, hold political prisoners.

When one compares General Chuykov's figures with the relatively reliable information available on the concentration camps, it becomes clear that the questions are justified. A careful estimate made in December 1949 resulted in a figure of 17,000 prisoners in Sachsenhausen camp alone. At the same time it was determined that Buchenwald held 12,000 prisoners and that Bautzen held 7,000 a total of 36,000 persons. But Chuykov's figures total only 28,983. Even taking into account a reasonable error in the calculation of the number of prisoners, there are still several thousand persons unaccounted for.

The most probable explanation is that several thousand prisoners were transported to the Soviet Union during the period of negotiations between the Russians and the East German government. It is known that officers of the Russian secret police have been feverishly active in the last few months, screening the prisoners in the three camps. Fairly reliable reports speak of sealed, east-bound prisoner transports; according to the latest of these reports, approximately 2,000 prisoners left Oranienburg for the east as late as 14 January.

Coming back to Sachsenhausen, it is known with a high degree of certainty that about 50,000 prisoners have passed through that camp since 1945. Cautious analysts estimate a fatality rate of 50 percent. About 9,000 prisoners have been shipped to the east, and the rest have either been liberated or remain.

EAST GERMAN POLICE SENT TO BALKANS -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 2, 3 Jan 50

A rather large contingent of East German people's police has been sent from Naumburg in Eastern Germany to an unknown destination in the Balkans. None of the German soldiers had any idea of where they were going or of their mission. However, they were equipped for life in the field and had eight light artillery pieces.

General Freytag, who recently returned from a course in politics in Moscow, has been appointed director of the People's Police School.

- E N D -

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED